

(The following is not a verbatim transcript of comments or discussion that occurred during the meeting, but rather a summarization intended for general informational purposes. All motions and votes are the official records).

FLOOD COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Flood Committee was held on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

Chair stated that Council Minority Leader Favicchio and Mr. Capobianco both called him and indicated that they could not attend this meeting due to a conflict.

Present were: Chairman Archetto, Councilman Aceto, Council President Lanni, Mr. Mason and Mr. Papino. Chair stated that Ms. Lee is running late and should arrive by 7:00 p.m. If there are no objections, the meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. when Ms. Lee arrives, otherwise, the meeting will have to be cancelled due to lack of quorum. The Committee members present agreed to wait for Ms. Lee to arrive.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chair.

Present: Council Majority Leader Paul H. Archetto, Chair
Councilman Mario Aceto
Sarah Kales Lee (appeared at 7:00 p.m.)
Kenneth Mason, Director of Public Works
Matthew Papino
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Absent: Council Minority Leader Michael W. Favicchio
Brian Dupont
Michael Behm
Nicholas Capobianco
Senator Frank S. Lombardi
Representative Robert Jacquard

Also Present: Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Mr. Papino, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE:

OLD BUSINESS:

- ***Wilbur Ave. and Oaklawn Ave. – Schedule for cleaning drains and who is responsible for cleaning the drains, the State or the City? (Councilman Aceto) (Cont. 3/18/2015 & 5/20/2015)***

Councilman Aceto questioned the excavation being done on the apartments on Oaklawn Ave. that were flooded a few years ago. Mr. Mason stated that the City has had meetings with the owners of the property and they asked for the City's help in increasing the drainage capacity, but because the work is being done on their property and the amount of work, we were not able to offer them any assistance.

Mr. Mason stated that the drains on both Wilbur Ave. and Oaklawn Ave. are all flowing free and clean. Generally speaking, the State does a horrible job. They do it while it is clogged. They do not give the City any schedule.

Chair stated that since the State is not doing good work on this, he suggested sending a letter to the Cranston State Delegation, Senators Lombardi and Gallo and Representatives Lima, Jacquard and Lancia and Speaker Mattiello, either from Mr. Mason or from the Committee addressing this and the Committee be kept updated.

- ***Status of Fletcher Ave. Flood Wall – Buyout status and the funding (Chair)***

Mr. Mason stated that he has been advised by Mr. Lapolla, Planning Director, that we may be able to use NRCS money to buy out homes in this area. According to the Planning Director, they will be revising their plan taking the flood wall out and asking NRCS to fund the buyout of the properties. They are also looking at FEMA funding to buyout the five properties on Fletcher Ave. According to the Planning Director, it could take six months to get a reaction from FEMA and NRCS. Once they agree, we would have to approach the property owners to see if they are willing to participate in this buyout program. Application process would then have to be made and appraisal has to be done on the properties and then negotiations with the property owners would have to be held.

PUBLIC HEARING/NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Papino stated that there is a gentleman who lives on his street, Martin Madden, who was President of the Condominium Association, who is interested in serving on this Committee. Mr. Papino stated that he feels that having a resident of the Condominium Association on this Committee would be helpful to this Committee. He stated that he will provide Mr. Madden's resume to the Clerk and she can forward it to the Committee members for their review. Chair stated that this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Chair stated that there are two positions on this Committee, formerly held by Mr. Behm and Mr. Dupont, which are open. These two individuals have had excessive absences and these positions need to be filled. He asked that letters be sent both to Mr. Behm and Mr. Dupont indicating that due to their excessive absences, they are being replaced as members of this Committee. Clerk indicated that this request was made at the last meeting and letters have been sent to these two individuals.

Chair asked that the following items be placed on the agenda for the next meeting:

- Status of Fletcher Ave. Flood Wall – Buyout status and the funding (Chair)
- Discussion regarding letters that are to be sent to the Cranston Delegation regarding the cleaning of the catch basins and schedule by the State

Chair stated that the Committee will not be meeting during the months of July and August and will resume in September. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees